To any of our SUBSCRIBERS *who are in possession of copies of Nos.* 3, 4, *and* 8, *in an unsoiled state; and who do not require them for binding up, we shall be happy to return the full sum of* THREEPENCE *in exchange for such Nos., they being now entirely out of print.*

THE BUILDER,

NO. XXVIII.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1843.

BUILDERS' DRAWING SCHOOL.

Now that the season is approaching for men to yield themselves the more cheerfully to the labours of study, that the long nights of winter and the severities of the weather incline them to seek in-door occupations, we may calculate upon a probability of carrying out the object to which we have been invited, and for which we have in some anxiety laboured, namely, the formation of the Builders' Drawing School. In this, as in all other matters, much requires to be done in "*feeling the way*," as it is termed, in preparing the public mind, and bringing together the elements or agents by which the work is to be effected; and looking at our very recent entrance into existence, and the comparatively partial or limited circle in which we have yet attained to move, it cannot be expected that we could do much, however resolute and energetic in purpose we might be; besides which, the builders have yet so little of united purpose, and require so much, that the task of uniting them is one unvarying phase of labour. Nevertheless, we have effected our purpose in part, and from the advanced position we have gained, we proceed to lay down plans for farther progress.

We think we see our way to the accomplishment of great ends by steady and safe experiments. What is wanted in a Builders' Drawing School of the present day, is a provision for a full course of tuition in the constructive, decorative, and a third department, which we may call that of general design: the first and second pertain to the workshop, but the first more than the second; the second being in fact allied equally to the first and third departments.

The general workman requires to be initiated, and as far as possible well grounded in the art and science of construction, the decorator must be acquainted with the principles of construction theoretically, if not practically, and it will be all the better for him if he know it practically; the general designer, who is indeed the architect, should be well grounded in a knowledge of the two preceding, and since no building, with any pretensions to fitness, can be reared without the union of all the three agents, the constructor, the decorator, and the designer, so no school of building-art can be complete without the supervision and union of these three,—and it has been our anxious desire to see the way to such a union.

In the first place we tried to turn to this account the Institution so lately formed under the auspices of Government, known as the Somerset House School of DESIGN. We saw thousands of pounds of the public money voted for the purpose implied in the title of the Institution, and knowing as we do that no efficient progress can be made in such purpose without reference to constructive science, that, in fact, without a basis of practical working, the whole affair must be a bauble and a plaything, filling men's heads with fancies and vagaries, and overspreading the land with the superficialities of art;—knowing this, we proposed that THE BASIS, a Builders' School of Design, should be annexed to it; but the encouragement we met with was very small, was, in fact, any thing but encouragement from the right quarter. We have no right to dispute the judgment of the presiding parties over that institution; they may be, and sitting many of them together, in all likelihood are, far more competent to decide correctly on such a matter than ourselves; we therefore bow to their decision.

It would be hard, however, if, after the rejection of this our proposition, whether from the motive that they prefer such matters to originate with themselves, or a still less worthy motive which their twofold influence of personal station and public money and authority may give them, they should, upon our having started and brought into existence the practical institution we contemplate in obedience to the call of our CRAFT, it would be hard, we say, that they should step in and adopt a plan which their present rejection drives us to consider, and lay down the means of accomplishing. But we must proceed regardless of this fear. Martyrs there must be in every cause, and if we should be added to the number, so that a public good is effected, based upon a large amount of private happiness, we care little.

What adds to our determination is this. We find that the Somerset House School of Design stands very much in the position of the dog in the fable—not willingly or wittingly we are inclined to grant—but it is not eating the hay itself, nor does it allow others to eat it. It is injuring every private drawing establishment in the metropolis, and yet not supplying that which those establishments did or can supply—the *forced cheap system*; the "*protection system*" which it proceeds upon gives it an advantage which may be and we fear is abused. It is not alone facility and gifts to the learner that it is, or ought to dispense; but we contend it should do so by the teacher, instead of which it is inflicting injury on the latter, and not giving substantial good to the former.

No one will deny that something was wanted, no one denies that a builders' drawing school is wanted, a general school, and extension in numbers and usefulness of the smaller ones; but need we on this account lay down such a plan as will work ruin to those already established? By no means. If common funds are to be raised and applied, let them be for a common good, and, above all things, let those who have their interests locked up in, and dependent on a system or state of things previously established, be first considered in any change that may be likely to affect their interest.

In saying thus much, we have particular allusion to make to the case of Mr. Grayson, the conductor of an old-established and well-reputed builders' drawing school, in Banner-street, Finsbury; we select his particular case to elucidate others. Mr. Grayson conducts an establishment which was founded by his late father nearly sixty years back. The elder Mr. Grayson, with this gentleman and his brother, have had to do with the training of many of our principal builders and architects; the establishment has grown time-honoured and respectable; the selection of models, drawings, &c., is first-rate, and altogether, if we were to look about for a gentleman to rely upon in the extension of a scheme of builders' schools, we should say that Mr. Grayson and Mr. Grayson's interest, with others in like manner situated, demand to be first consulted.

A new appointment in prejudice to his and their interests would be unjust, unless the required good could not be accomplished without such new appointment; and we say it would have been better if the Somerset House School had embraced a practical plan, like a builders' drawing school, with such a gentleman as Mr. Grayson invited and appointed to superintend in his department, and properly compensated. His former meritorious labours and every circumstance demand this species of delicate and just consideration.

Well, this has not been done; but how are we to proceed? We are anxious to do so in every way that may avoid that of which we have to complain. The builders want no unfair sacrifices from any body; they look to their own proper pay, and cannot withhold it from another. A good school can be formed in numbers sufficient to remunerate Mr. Grayson, or any other gentleman best entitled to superintend it. The models and collections can be availed of and properly paid for; and it is upon this principle we would proceed, if the working builders will support us in our proposition.

We cannot occupy more time in the laying out our plan for the present, farther than to say, that we think a most favourable opportunity is before us all if we now embrace it. In decoration, Mr. Lewis, whose excellent letters we have had in THE BUILDER, in conjunction with Mr. Barker, appears willing to take the lead; and we know where we can refer to for the chief architectural direction: what more then is wanted? Let the builders come forward prepared to support their leaders, and they will have the proud satisfaction of erecting their own house, and possessing their own well-earned patrimony.

THE PATENT STUCCO PAINT CEMENT, AND PATENT STUCCO PAINT.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—In the notice given in your last number (page 323), of the "Patent Stucco Paint Cement and Patent Stucco Paint" manufactured by Messrs. Johns & Co., of Plymouth, you have inadvertently stated them to be one and the same material, and have led your readers to suppose that it may be used either as a paint or a cement, according as it is employed by the painter or the plasterer.

We are not surprised at this misapprehension on your part, for the facts of the materials being both embodied in one patent, the similarity of their appearance, and there being only a trifling difference in the titles conferred upon them by the patentees, have led to much doubt and confusion, and have caused us considerable trouble in explanation; and there can be no doubt but that the further propagation of the error through the medium of a journal circulating so extensively as yours does among all parties connected with or interested in building matters, will be of some disservice to us unless counteracted by an explanation through the same channel; and we therefore crave the indulgence of being allowed space in your columns to give a succinct account of the nature and properties of the two materials. We shall commence with—

THE STUCCO PAINT CEMENT.

This is the plasterer's article exclusively, and is sold in a *fluid state or of the consistence of paint* (hence its name). This paint cement or fluid stone, when mixed with sand in the proportion of from 2½ to 3 parts of sand to 1 part of the fluid, forms a stucco of a most extraordinary kind, of which the following are the leading characteristics:—

1st. It will adhere with a tenacity (hitherto unknown) to any surface whatever, whether of brick, tile, slate, wood, iron and all the metals, and even to glass.

2nd. It will form a perfect *casing of stone* to any building that is covered with it, by which the walls will be materially strengthened,

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